

MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS REVIEW

A MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER SERVING THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS UNITS OF IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI AND NEBRASKA

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Kansas Medical Reserve Corps Units Hold State Meeting

On March 8, 2005, Medical Reserve Corps units from across Kansas held their second state meeting in Hutchinson. Hosted by the Reno County Medical Reserve Corps, the meeting provided a forum for state Medical Reserve Corps leaders to discuss issues and concerns common to units across the state. The meeting also provided Kansas Medical Reserve Corps leaders with an opportunity to network and share ideas and information. The meeting addressed the following topics:

- Highlights of Kansas Medical Reserve Corps unit activities
- Region VII and national Medical Reserve Corps program highlights
- Kansas Citizen Corps activities
- Development of Harvey County Medical Reserve Corps
- Possible formation of Medical Reserve Corps unit in Cowley County
- Kansas Health Foundation grants
- Volunteer liability



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MRC National Conference San Francisco, CA	April 20-22, 2005
BT Preparedness Planning For Diverse Public Health Communities (satellite broadcast) University of Albany SPH	April 7, 2005
4 th UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters Woodland Hills, CA	May 1-4, 2005
NACCHO-ASTHO Joint Conference Boston, MA	July 12-15, 2005

National Volunteer Week Provides Opportunity to Recognize Outstanding Medical Reserve Corps Volunteers

National Volunteer Week, sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation, offers the opportunity to recognize outstanding Medical Reserve Corps volunteers and call the public's attention to their efforts to improve communities across the nation. According to the Points of Light Foundation website, the 2005 theme of National

Volunteer Week is "Inspire by Example" because it reflects volunteers' ability to inspire not only the people they help, but also inspire others to serve. This year, the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation encourages you to [recognize your volunteers' achievement](#) by presenting the President's Volunteer Service Award to deserving volunteers in your organizations during National Volunteer Week, as well as throughout the year. The Points of Light Foundation has developed a [2005 National Volunteer Week toolkit](#) to help you plan and publicize recognition activities for your volunteers. National Volunteer Week began in 1974, when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order establishing the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. Since that time, every U.S. President has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week. For more information about National Volunteer Week and the awards available to recognize Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, please visit the Points of Light Foundation website at <http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/>.



Mid-America Alliance Developing 10-State Public Health Mutual Aid Agreement

Established in 2004, the purpose of the Mid-America Alliance is to provide a framework for mutual assistance among participating states during a situation that stresses one individual state's resources but does not initiate a state of emergency declared by the governor. The Mid-America Alliance is comprised of Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming. The Mid-America Alliance establishes a system by which neighboring states can share services, resources, and information to efficiently address the needs of citizens during a public health emergency. This effort was initially funded by \$200,000 of Nebraska's federal bioterrorism funding and \$50,000 from the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

According to its website, the Mid-America Alliance has two primary objectives:

1. Develop regional cooperative programs for mutual aid and support for states responding to public health events not warranting a state of emergency declared by a governor of a participating state.
 - a. Create a regional model for establishing mutual aid programs between regional health districts and state entities that will identify and allow the sharing of resources and minimize barriers to mutual assistance.
 - b. Provide technical assistance to state and local health agencies during times of crisis for meeting readiness goals, including epidemiology and laboratory services.
 - c. Create a regional database of available resources to meet surge capacity needs, including investigation and response plans, to achieve containment of infectious disease outbreaks and accomplish all-hazards emergency response and recovery strategies.
 - d. Establish model legislation to allow the exchange of public health care professionals during emergencies through a Medical Professionals Licensure Interstate Compact.
2. Establish a state-based pilot program for testing public health readiness indicators.
 - a. Define a regional, all-hazards public health response system and identify mechanisms and processes for escalating capability.
 - b. Incorporate and evaluate multiple options for establishing the prototype including the regional or a multi-state approach.
 - c. Identify obstacles and recommend solutions to achieve routine monitoring of conditions of public health importance in the region. The evaluation will include

issues related to detection, response and containment.

- d. Conduct an analysis of the regions' capabilities to respond to public health emergencies and document the staffing needs required to provide an effective response. The analysis will include determining staffing needs to track cases, offer prophylaxis, and implement appropriate containment strategies.

For more information on the Mid-America Alliance and its efforts to establish a public health mutual aid agreement between states in Regions VII and VIII, visit www.midamericaalliance.org.

UPCOMING TRAINING AND CONFERENCES



Mass Fatalities Incident Response Planning: The National Mass Fatalities Institute is sponsoring a Mass Fatalities Incident response Planning course on April 4-8, 2005 in Kansas City, MO. This course addresses the essential elements of planning for response to a mass fatalities event and is designed to help planning-level officials from all levels of government, the private sector, and voluntary organizations understand the concepts of a multifaceted, integrated response plan. For more information, contact the National Mass Fatalities Institute at (866) 623-6634 or <http://www.nmfi.org/events.htm>.

Bioterrorism Preparedness/Response Planning for Diverse Public Health Communities: The University of Albany Center for Public Health Preparedness, as part of its Grand Rounds Series, is conducting a satellite broadcast entitled "Bioterrorism Preparedness/Response Planning for Diverse Public Health Communities" on April 7, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. CDT (the program will be rebroadcast at 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. CDT). The program speaker will be Dr. Ivan Walks of the Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services. To register for this broadcast, visit the

Center for Public Health Preparedness website at <http://www.informz.net/ualbany-sph/event.asp?eid=472>.

Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: POD Management: On April 14, 2005, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. CDT, the CDC and the Public Health Training Network will be presenting a satellite broadcast and webcast entitled "Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: POD Management." According to the training bulletin, this live interactive program will highlight the essential elements of an effective Point-of-Distribution (POD). Panel members will identify the challenges of managing and maintaining a POD, as well as determine appropriate solutions to many common problems associated with POD management. A question and answer session will enable participants nationwide to pose questions to panelists. For more information on this program, please visit www.phppo.cdc.gov/phtn/antibiotic04-05/save-date.asp.

4th UCLA Conference on Public Health and Disasters: The UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters is conducting its fourth Conference on Public Health and Disasters on May 1-4, 2005 at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills, CA. According to the Center for Public Health and Disasters website, the goal of this conference is to provide a forum that promotes a dialogue and exchange of ideas between local public health departments and others involved in improving public health preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery to emergencies and disasters. This multidisciplinary conference is designed to bring together academicians, researchers, practitioners and policy-makers from public health, mental health, emergency management, the social sciences, the media and non-governmental organizations. For more information on this conference, please contact Andrea Core, (310) 794-0864 or acore@ucla.edu. Information on the conference is also available at <http://www.cphd.ucla.edu/>.

13th Annual VOAD Conference: According to *Disaster Research 424*, published by the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center, the National and Colorado Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) organizations are conducting their annual conference on June 21-24, 2005 in Denver, CO. The theme of this year's conference is "Ascending to New Heights" and will focus on the 2004 hurricane season; the National Response Plan; the National Incident Management System; volunteer management; donations management; government relations and legislation; emotional and spiritual care; and response, recovery and relief. More information is available from contact Cathy Kissner of COVOAD at (970) 254-1011 or VOAD at <http://www.nvoad.org/annualconf1.php>.

HOW TO UPDATE UNIT INFORMATION ON THE MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS WEBSITE

As a registered Medical Reserve Corps Director and/or Coordinator, you have permission to change the contact information for your unit on the Medical Reserve Corps website. To make adjustments to your unit's contact information, log-on to the MRC website (www.medicalreservecorps.gov) using the username and password you created at registration. Once logged in, you will be given the option in the left-hand frame of the website to "Edit MRC Unit." Click on this tab. The next page will include the fields for your Medical Reserve Corps unit, which you have the ability to maintain and keep accurate. These fields include:

- Unit name
- Jurisdiction
- Sponsoring organization
- Point of contact's name
- Unit address
- Phone number
- E-mail address
- Website address
- Activation plan
- Emergency 24/7 contact information
- Brief unit description
- Current activities

You may change or update your unit information as often as you like. However, the Medical Reserve Corps national program office requests that you update this information at least once every three months. After making any corrections, simply click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. This will save your updates and post them to the Medical Reserve Corps website for all to reference. Please keep in mind that only the Medical Reserve Corps national program office staff and you are able to see the emergency contact and activation process information. This information will not be shared with other users of the Medical Reserve Corps website. If you have any technical issues with this feature, please e-mail the Webmaster at MRCWebmaster@z-techcorp.com. For all other questions, feel free to contact the Medical Reserve Corps national program office at 301-443-4951 or MRCcontact@osophs.dhhs.gov.

Happy those who knowing they are subject to uncertain changes, are prepared and armed for either fortune; a rare principle, and with much labor learned in wisdom's school.

Massinger
from Herbert Prochnow's *The Public Speaker's Treasure Chest*, 1942

American Heart Association Seeks to Work with Medical Reserve Corps Units in Region



Diseases of the heart and stroke are the #1 and #3 causes of death in America. Every 33 seconds, someone has a heart attack. Every 45 seconds, someone suffers a stroke. What can we do to change this? Be a Heart & Stroke Ambassador with the American Heart Association! The Heartland Affiliate of the American Heart Association would like to work in partnership with Medical Reserve Corps units throughout Region VII to improve the heart health of our communities. Established in 1925, the American Heart Association has been a leader in providing education and resources to prevent and treat cardiovascular diseases and stroke. The American Heart Association has speaker presentations and resources available at no charge for Ambassadors who want to address this national crisis in their communities. As Heart & Stroke Ambassadors, Medical Reserve Corps units can:

- ✓ Receive the most current, scientific educational materials on heart and stroke health
- ✓ Align their existing community efforts with a recognized leader in heart and stroke health
- ✓ Improve the health of their communities
- ✓ Save lives through education and information

Through this initiative, Medical Reserve Corps units may conduct a variety of activities ranging from simply using American Heart Association educational materials in presentations and educational programs to working with the American Heart Association to develop a customized activity or program addressing the heart and stroke health needs and priorities in their specific communities. If your Medical Reserve Corps unit is interested in working with the American Heart Association to improve the heart and stroke health of your community, please contact Gary Brown, Regional Medical Reserve Corps Coordinator, OPHS/DHHS Region VII, at (816) 426-2829 or gbrown2@osophs.dhhs.gov, or contact Judy James, Community Heart & Stroke Director, American Heart Association Heartland Affiliate, at (913) 652-1917 or judy.james@heart.org.

Have a Heart, Save a Heart . . . Be a Heart & Stroke Ambassador!